

## WHICH CODE FOR WHICH PROJECT?

**I. RESIDENTIAL CODE OF OHIO 2013 (RCO) - 352-3313**

This code has been adopted by the City of Cincinnati for one-, two- and three- family dwellings including their accessory structures and up to three attached townhouses less than four stories in height. It skips the many provisions that apply to non-residential buildings, making it easy to read. The chapters are arranged in a logical construction sequence, starting with the building planning. Along with the usual building restrictions, it contains the applicable parts of the Mechanical Code.

**II. OHIO BUILDING CODE 2011 (OBC) - 352-3313**

This code applies to construction and/or alterations of non-residential buildings and residences not governed by the Residential Code of Ohio.

**III. OHIO MECHANICAL CODE 2011 (OMC) - 352-3313**

This code applies to all commercial heating, ventilation, air conditioning, refrigeration, incineration, air pollution control and similar work not governed by the Residential Code of Ohio.

**IV. OHIO PLUMBING CODE 2011 (INCLUDING CINCINNATI AMENDMENTS) - 352-3280**

This code applies to all plumbing work.

**V. ELECTRIC CODE - 381-6080 (IBI) (Inspection Bureau, Inc.)**

**VI. CINCINNATI BUILDING CODE (CBC) - 352-3313**

This Code is a collection of 19 local regulations, laws and ordinances that supplements the Residential Code of Ohio, The Ohio Building Code, the Ohio Mechanical Code and the Ohio Plumbing Code. It also includes local regulations regarding construction in the flood plain (Chapter 1109) and excavation and fill requirements (Chapter 1113). Chapter 1115 adopts the RCO One-, Two-, and Three Family Dwelling Code. Chapter 1117 (Housing Code) regulates all existing residential buildings. Chapter 1107 provides local enforcement of the ASME Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators and related regulations. Chapter 1121 provides Historic Rehabilitation Standards.

**VII. HOUSING CODE - CHAPTER 1117 --- 352-3275**

This Code section relates to the use and maintenance of existing residential buildings, portions thereof or premises used or intended to be used for human habitation. All provisions of the Housing Code are retroactive and apply to all existing dwellings.

The purpose of this Code section is to establish minimum housing standards necessary for the preservation of the public safety, health, and general welfare in all existing residential buildings,

rooming houses, hotels and motels, except to the extent that it may be in conflict with the laws of this State or with the lawful regulations of any State Board Agency.

**VIII. HISTORIC REHABILITATION STANDARDS – CHAPTER 1121 - 352-3313**

This standard applies to historically designated buildings containing residential business and retail uses that are 5 stories in height or less, 4,000 square feet in area, of Type III-B construction or better, with each floor having two means of egress. This standard allows most sound existing walls and ceilings to remain in lieu of upgrading the fire resistive ratings to new Code Standards. This is especially applicable to changes of use and occupancy situations.

**IX. CINCINNATI ZONING CODE - 352-3313**

The Cincinnati Zoning Code regulates the use and development of land and is designed to protect property values by preventing the location of incompatible uses in close proximity to one another. Zoning regulations also help to maintain the character of established neighborhoods and prevent inappropriate activities such as auto repair in residential neighborhoods. The Zoning Code governs land use in historic districts, hillsides and certain urban business areas. It regulates development to avoid parking congestion and promotes effective signage compatible with its surroundings. This Code is generally arranged in a sequence of more restrictive Zoning districts to less restrictive Zoning districts.

**All of the aforementioned Codes are available on line. The Cincinnati Building Code and Zoning Code are available through the department website [www.cincinnati-oh.gov/planning](http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/planning).**